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TECHNICAL NOTES

LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE · · FOREST SERVICE

No. 609

Veneer Log Production of Standard Grades up Slightly, Container Grades Down, Lake States, 1960

Timber operators harvested approximately 54 million board feet of veneer logs in the Lake States in 1960, according to a biennial survey recently completed by the Station (see table on reverse side). Although the 1960 cut was 3 percent larger than that of 1958, it was nearly 40 percent less than was cut 10 years ago.

Of the regional total, about 86 percent was cut for standard veneer plants while the remaining 14 percent was cut for plants producing container veneers for boxes, baskets, and crates. Wisconsin accounted for about 47 percent of the regional total, Michigan 34 percent, and Minnesota 19 percent. Michigan for many years was the region's leading veneer log producing state, but relinquished the number-one spot to Wisconsin several years ago. During the past 10 years Wisconsin and Minnesota have maintained annual cuts of around 25 million and 10 million board feet, respectively. Michigan's veneer log output, however, has dropped off sharply from about 50 million board feet to less than 20 million board feet annually.

More than half of the region's container veneer plants have gone out of business since 1950. Most of the defunct large container plants were located in Michigan. Loss of these mills has resulted in bringing about a sharp decline in Michigan's veneer log output in recent years.

Exports of walnut veneer logs from Wisconsin and Minnesota in 1960 showed substantial increases over those of other years. A large proportion was shipped via railroad to Montreal, Canada, then by boat to European countries.

Total 1960 veneer log receipts at Lake States mills were about 64½ million board feet, 12 percent more than in 1958. This increase was not general throughout the region: Wisconsin mills registered an increase of nearly 20 percent, while plants in both Michigan and Minnesota procured less logs than in 1958. Local operators supplied 80 percent of the veneer logs, Canada 11 percent, and other states 9 percent (see table below). 1960 imports from other states and Canada were much larger than in 1958.

Geographic origin and destination of veneer logs received by Lake States plants, 1960

Species	Percent of veneer logs originating from:					Percent of veneer logs received by:		
	Minn.	Wis.	Mich.	Other : U. S.	Canada	Minn. mills	Wis. mills	Mich. mills
Aspen	27	64	9	-	-	-	99	1
Ash	21	55	12	12	-	3	92	5
Basswood	30	45	17	8	-	5	81	14
Beech	-	25	75	-	-	-	39	61
Birch	11	20	43	-	26	1	69	30
Cottonwood	39	18	1	42	-	9	90	1
Elm	24	42	17	17	-	2	80	18
Maple, hard	5	39	39	-	17	-	81	19
Maple, soft	16	42	21	21	-	1	83	16
Oak	14	70	3	12	1	-	94	6
Walnut	100	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
Misc. hardwoods	-	31	7	62	-	-	75	25
All species	15	38	27	9	11	2	79	19
Previous survey (1958)	15	40	34	2	9	3	75	22

July 1961

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Research Forester

Production and imports of veneer logs, Lake States, 1960

(Thousand board feet International 1/4-inch log rule)

Species and destination	Production by states ^{1/}				Imports			Total receipts
	Minnesota	Wisconsin	Michigan	Region	Other U. S. ^{2/}	Canada	Total imports	
Aspen								
Minnesota	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Wisconsin	566	1,336	172	2,074	-	-	-	2,074
Michigan	-	-	23	23	-	-	-	23
Total	568	1,336	195	2,099	-	-	-	2,099
Ash								
Minnesota	30	-	-	30	-	-	-	30
Wisconsin	203	600	102	905	101	1	102	1,007
Michigan	-	-	31	31	25	-	25	56
Total	233	600	133	966	126	1	127	1,093
Basswood								
Minnesota	334	-	-	334	-	-	-	334
Wisconsin	1,472	3,056	421	4,949	537	8	545	5,494
Michigan	200	-	724	924	-	-	-	924
Total	2,006	3,056	1,145	6,207	537	8	545	6,752
Beech								
Minnesota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	-	241	137	378	-	-	-	378
Michigan	-	-	583	583	-	-	-	583
Total	-	241	720	961	-	-	-	961
Birch								
Minnesota	255	-	-	255	-	-	-	255
Wisconsin	1,416	3,846	4,819	10,081	1	2,896	2,897	12,978
Michigan	300	-	3,367	3,667	-	2,052	2,052	5,719
Exported ^{3/}	-	30	42	72	-	-	-	-
Total	1,971	3,876	8,228	14,075	1	4,948	4,949	18,952
Cottonwood								
Minnesota	292	-	-	292	-	-	-	292
Wisconsin	986	603	-	1,589	1,369	-	1,369	2,958
Michigan	-	-	35	35	-	-	-	35
Total	1,278	603	35	1,916	1,369	-	1,369	3,285
Elm								
Minnesota	116	-	-	116	-	-	-	116
Wisconsin	1,371	2,564	36	3,971	1,013	-	1,013	4,984
Michigan	-	-	1,025	1,025	60	-	60	1,085
Total	1,487	2,564	1,061	5,112	1,073	-	1,073	6,185
Maple, hard								
Minnesota	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Wisconsin	610	4,792	2,540	7,942	59	1,819	1,878	9,820
Michigan	-	-	2,165	2,165	-	200	200	2,365
Exported ^{3/}	-	100	723	823	-	-	-	-
Total	611	4,892	5,428	10,931	59	2,019	2,078	12,186
Maple, soft								
Minnesota	32	-	-	32	-	-	-	32
Wisconsin	555	1,509	181	2,245	764	8	772	3,017
Michigan	-	-	590	590	-	-	-	590
Total	587	1,509	771	2,867	764	8	772	3,639
Oak								
Minnesota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	1,186	5,437	240	6,863	1,001	69	1,070	7,933
Michigan	-	450	34	484	-	-	-	484
Exported ^{3/}	-	66	197	263	-	-	-	-
Total	1,186	5,953	471	7,610	1,001	69	1,070	8,417
Walnut								
Minnesota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	14	-	-	14	-	-	-	14
Michigan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exported ^{3/}	63	410	155	628	-	-	-	-
Total	77	410	155	642	-	-	-	14
Misc. species								
Minnesota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	1	265	11	277	362	2	364	641
Michigan	-	-	51	51	160	-	160	211
Exported ^{3/}	88	162	83	333	-	-	-	-
Total	89	427	145	661	522	2	524	852
All species								
Minnesota	1,062	-	-	1,062	-	-	-	1,062
Wisconsin	8,380	24,249	8,659	41,288	5,207	4,803	10,010	51,298
Michigan	500	450	8,628	9,578	245	2,252	2,497	12,075
Exported ^{3/}	151	768	1,200	2,119	-	-	-	-
Total	10,093	25,467	18,487	54,047	5,452	7,055	12,507	64,435

^{1/} Vertical columns of figures under box heading "Production by states" represents the quantity of veneer logs cut in each state.

^{2/} Central and eastern states.

^{3/} Veneer logs shipped to mills outside Lake States region.